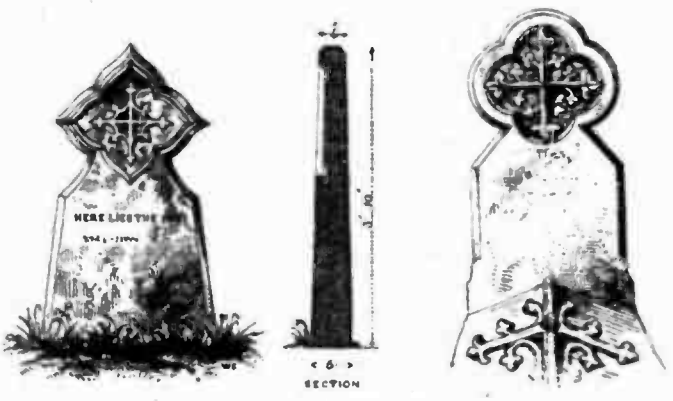
CHURCHYARD MEMORIALS.



CHURCHYARD MEMORIALS.

It is scarcely possible to walk through a churchyard without feeling the importance of inducing the selection of proper sepulchral memorials and epitaphs. There has been melancholy work done both in the churches and the open grounds; in the former positive damage to some of the finest buildings, and in the latter opportunities for useful teaching not merely missed, but so used as to do mischief and give pain. Since Dr. Markland published his excellent "Remarks on English Churches, and on the expediency of rendering Sepulchral Memorials subservient to Pious and Christian Uses,"* a correcter feeling on the subject has become more general than it was, though we still too often see the walls of our churches plastered with

——— "Mural Monuments, every size;
That woe could wish, or vanity devise."

We once met with an epitaph as nearly as we can remember like the following:—

"Underneath this ancient pew
Lie the remains of Jonathan Blue:
His name was *Black*, but that wouldn't do."

That any man could have set to work to cut this deliberately into stone, letter by letter, is surprising, but that his courage lasted him out is more so.

What shall we say, too, to this at Winchester, put up at the end of the last century:—

"Here sleeps in peace a Hampshire grenadier,
Who caught his death by drinking cold small beer.
Soldiers, be wise from his untimely fall.
And when ye're hot, drink *strong*, or none at all."

"Affliction sore
Long time I bore," &c.,

so often met with, and such as

"Here I lie, and no wonder I'm dead,
For the wheel of a waggon went over my head,"

seem inoffensive after such ribaldry; and one can almost excuse, on the ground of its purpose, the American tomb-stone, which is inscribed,—

"Sacred to the remains of Jonathan Thompson, a pious Christian, and an affectionate husband. His disconsolate widow continues to carry on the tripe and trotter business at the same place as before her bereavement."

As a contribution towards the improvement of our rural churchyards a small volume has been recently published by the Rev. W. Hastings Kelke, rector of Drayton Beauchamp. It is entitled "The Churchyard Manual," and contains, with remarks on churchyards, showing the importance of giving them a true Christian character, a collection of 501 epitaphs, not all such as we would choose, but mostly good, and many excellent.† An epitaph should be "simple, monitory, scriptural,"—the "epitome of a sermon teaching the most useful truths in the most comprehensive form." "An epitaph," says Wordsworth, "is not a proud writing shut up for the studious: it is exposed to all, to the wise and the most ignorant: it is condescending, perspicuous, and lovingly solicits regard: its story and admonitions are brief, that the thoughtless, the busy, and indolent may not be deterred nor the impatient tired: the stooping old man cons the engraven record like a second horn-book: the child is proud that he can read it; and the stranger is introduced by its mediation to the company of a friend: it is concerning all, and for all:—in the churchyard it is open to the day: the sun looks down upon the stone, and the rains of heaven beat against it."

It is not an easy matter to write a good epitaph. "Dear little child," at Westminster, and *Miserrimus*, at Worcester, are touching brevities, not without useful suggestiveness.

Wordsworth, who wrote a charming essay upon epitaphs,* has received one which does not seem to us satisfactory.

"To the Memory of William Wordsworth, a true philosopher and poet, who, by the special gift and calling of Almighty God, whether he discoursed on man or nature, failed not to lift up the heart to holy things. Tired not of maintaining the cause of the poor and simple; and so, in perilous times, was raised up to be a chief minister, not only of noblest poesy, but of high and sacred truth. The memorial is placed here by his friends and neighbours in testimony of respect, affection, and gratitude."

"Some monuments are covered with such extraordinary epitaphs," says Addison, "that if it were possible for the dead person to become acquainted with them he would blush at the praises which his friends have bestowed upon him." Who does not remember the inquiry of the little girl while walking through a churchyard,—"Mamma, where are the *naughty* people buried?"

Mr. Kelke has illustrated his book with several sketches of simple sepulchral memorials contributed by architects (Mr. Scott and Mr. Slater), and of these we give two examples.

* John Murray.

† The Churchyard Manual, intended chiefly for Rural Districts. By W. Hastings Kelke, A.B. London: C. Cox, Strand. 1851.

* Printed in "The Friend;" also prefixed to Snow's "Lyra Memorialis."

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Bury.—The Guildhall feoffees have granted a site for a museum. The old "kitchen," adjacent to the Guildhall, will be pulled down, and a new building erected on its foundation. The committee, it is said, have already a much larger collection than belonged to the Ipswich museum when it was first opened.

Doddington.—Mr. G. K. Jarvis, of Doddington Hall, has contributed a memorial stained glass window to the church. This window contains figures nearly life size: in the centre is our Saviour, with St. James and St. John on one side, and St. Peter and St. Andrew on the other. There are, also, some smaller figures in the upper part, representing the Saviour seated on the throne of glory, in the midst of angels in garments of light; while others wing their flight thither, bearing scrolls. The window is supplied by Wailes.

Hatcham.—In respect to a former statement as to the balance of 300*l.* required for the new church, the architect, Mr. Granville, informs us that the deficiency has reference to the school account. The amount raised out of the 6,000*l.* required for the church is only 1,200*l.* The schools cost 1,200*l.*

Margate.—Damage has recently been done to the jetty, to the extent of 150*l.*, and it is said that of late years it has caused continual expense in keeping it up, to the amount of 300*l.* a-year. A new one is projected, and powers will probably be applied for in the ensuing session of Parliament.

Wells.—A stained glass window, by Mr. Bell, artist in glass, is to be placed in the choir of the cathedral, as a testimonial by the clergy of the diocese to Archdeacon Brymer. The window is of considerable size, and comprises large figures of St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and St. Athanasius, all of them placed in niches on inscribed pedestals, and surmounted by canopies.

Durrington, Wilts.—The parish church in this village being dilapidated and too small for the accommodation of the parishioners, has been almost entirely rebuilt under the superintendence of Mr. Hugall, architect, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Salisbury on All Saints-day. In removing the old whitewash from the walls many traces of colour were discovered, and on the north wall especially, where a portion of the figure of St. Christopher, a mermaid, some fishes, and a broken wheel were very distinct: tracings were taken of them. In the walls which have been removed several fragments of Norman stone-work were found: these have been preserved in the new walls into which they have been inserted on the outer faces. The old oak pewing has been cut down and formed into open benches, and the nave, with its two aisles, are now filled with these seats. A new font of Norman character has taken the place of the defaced perpendicular one. The chancel has been partly restored, but the fittings, it seems, are of the worst possible description, for which, however, we are told, the architect is not responsible. On the south door is some modern ironwork in character with the Norman doorway, which has been restored to its original position, and the Norman arcade now cleansed from generations of whitewash, stands a perfect memorial of the ancient church.

Weston-super-Mare.—Building operations are in an active state in this thriving watering-place. In addition to a crescent and several villas about to be commenced on Weston-hill, a large piece of ground on the northern division of Locking-road has been broken on for the erection of forty houses, to be called "the New Town." They are designed for small tradesmen and mechanics, and will be rented at from 12*l.* to 15*l.* a year.

Kingscote (*Gloucestershire*).—The church here has been recently restored. Its condition was so dilapidated as to involve the necessity of new roofs, and a rebuilding of part of the walls. It consists of a chancel, nave, north transept, and western tower. The south windows, with that of the east, have been entirely reproduced. The nave has an open frame roof with the chancel. The church has been reseated with oak, new pulpit, brazen desk, and stall seats also of oak. The whole of the chancel windows have been fitted with painted glass by Ward and Nixon. The tower and the other parts of the church have been completely restored. The expense has been partly borne by Col. Kingscote and the parish: the chancel having been done at the expense of the rector, the Rev. A. G. Cornwall. The works have been performed by Messrs. Whitfield and Son, of Wotton-under-Edge, under the direction of Mr. Teulon, of London, architect.

Bath.—The Assembly Rooms have been recently painted and decorated. The vestibule is of a cheerful colour. The columns, &c., are painted a Sienna marble: the cornices and enrichments are relieved with deep tones: the doors are of oak colour. In the ball-room the style of decoration is more elaborate: the walls are panelled, of an apricot colour; the enrichments in Arabesque frieze; entablature and parapet, in various colours. The columns

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